



Dealing with Human Biting Policy and Procedure

Created: March 15, 2016

Revised: October 25, 2017, May 5, 2020

Reference: Toronto Public Health Guidance Document 2017

Approved by Board of Directors: November 15, 2017

Policy

Orde Day Care is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for children, families and staff. Orde Day Care will take every reasonable precaution to prevent the risk of injury and infectious disease within our locations. This policy acts as a guide and all biting incidents are considered serious and will be assessed on an individual basis.

Procedures

When a human biting incident occurs, all staff must follow the procedures outlined below:

If the skin was not broken:

- Perform hand hygiene and put on gloves.
- Clean the wound carefully with soap and water, apply a cold compress.
- Dispose gloves and perform hand hygiene.
- Put on clean gloves and rinse the biter's mouth with water (for infants, provide a drink of water).
- Dispose of gloves and perform hand hygiene.
- Contact the parents/guardians of those involved in the incident and advise them to contact their health care provider regarding post-exposure advice; remember to keep information confidential regarding the biter/bitee's identity, as soon as possible and within at least two hours of incident.
- Supervisors can inform the parents if the other child's immunization is up to date without releasing the identity of the other child.
- Complete an accident report without any identifying information and log information into daily log book per CCEYA requirements.
- Staff will work with both children and implement strategies to reduce the likelihood of further biting incidents.
- If a pattern of biting incident develops, the Site Supervisor will meet with the staff and families to discuss further strategies.

If the skin was broken:

- Perform hand hygiene and put on gloves
- Observe both children to see if there is any blood involved
- If there is blood, allow the wound to bleed gently without squeezing
- Clean the wound carefully with soap and water, apply a cold compress if appropriate
- Cover the wound with band aid or bandage to prevent infection
- Dispose gloves and perform hand hygiene



- Put on clean gloves and rinse the biter’s mouth with water (for infants, provide a drink of water).
- Dispose of gloves and perform hand hygiene.
- If it is known that either child has hepatitis B, C or HIV, report the incident to TPH immediately and ensure the confidentiality of the children and families.
- Contact the parents/guardians of those involved in the incident within two hours of the occurrence and advise them to contact their health care provider regarding post-exposure advice. Remember to keep information confidential regarding the biter/bitee's identity.
- Supervisor’ can inform the parents if the other child's immunization is up to date without releasing the identity of the other child.
- Complete an accident report and log information into daily log book as per CCEYA requirements.
- Staff will work with both children and implement strategies to reduce the likelihood of further biting incidents.
- If a pattern of biting incident develops, the Site Supervisor will meet with the staff and families to discuss further strategies.

Procedure review

All staff, students and volunteers will review the policy upon hiring and annually thereafter, or when changes are made.

If employees or parents have questions or require additional information when a biting incident occurs, please contact the TPH Bloodborne Disease team at 416-338-8400 or CDCBloodborne@toronto.ca. or provide [Toronto Public Health’s Biting Incidents- Information for Parents](#)

Staff Name	Supervisor Name:
Staff Signature:	Supervisor Signature:
Date:	Date:



Toronto Public Health Biting Incidents- Information of Parents

Information for Parents

For incidents where a child has been bitten and their skin has been broken, parents and/or caregivers should monitor the wound for the next few days. If the wound becomes red or swells, take your child to their healthcare provider again.

If your child's skin is broken, take your child to your family healthcare provider.

Your family healthcare provider will:

- review your child's tetanus immunization status and update it as necessary
- start Hepatitis B vaccine series unless your child has already received the Hepatitis B vaccine series (normally given in Ontario in grade 7)
- contact Toronto Public Health immediately if your child has Hepatitis B, C or HIV to allow for confidential follow-up and counselling of the other child involved

Information adapted from: A bite in the playroom: Managing human bites in child care settings, DL Moore, Canadian Pediatric Society, Paediatric Child Health 2008; 13 (6): 515-519, Feb 1 2014

Tips to Reduce Biting Incidents

- Teach your child not to bite. When your child is old enough to understand, teach that biting hurts and can be dangerous to them and to the person they bite
- Do not pretend to bite your child or let your child bite you in play. Do not bite your child back if they bite as this will teach them to bite
- Reinforce a "no biting" rule at all times
- Young children are still learning self-control. Show your child how to express anger with words like "no" or "I don't like that" instead of with biting
- Redirect or distract your child if you see a problem developing with a playmate

